UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.239/1
10 June 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Intergovernmental Working Group on the
Creation of an Effective International
Crime and Justice Programme
Vienna, 5-9 August 1991
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Note by the Secretariat

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting.

2. Election of officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

4. Establishment of a more effective international crime and justice programme: general debate.

5. Future of the United Nations crime and justice programme:

   (a) Programme content and priorities;

   (b) Modalities of international cooperation and structural arrangements;

   (c) Human and financial requirements for effective implementation.

6. Conclusions and recommendations.

7. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.

Annotations

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting will be convened at the Vienna International Centre on Monday, 5 August 1991, at 10.30 a.m.

2. Election of officers

In accordance with the established practice, the Working Group may wish to elect five officers: a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda for the meeting was prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/108, taking into account those resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on the review of the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations in crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as the relevant instruments and resolutions of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

4. Establishment of a more effective international crime and justice programme: general debate

The General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Eighth Congress, adopted resolution 45/108, whereby it decided to establish an intergovernmental working group to elaborate proposals for a more effective crime prevention and criminal justice programme on the basis of the report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control and to suggest how that programme could most appropriately be implemented.

In response to a request by the Seventh Congress contained in the Milan Plan of Action, which had been approved by the General Assembly in resolution 40/32, the review of the programme began at the ninth session of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control on the basis of a report of the Secretary-General (E/AC.57/1986/4). In resolution 1986/11, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in paragraph 82 of that report. The attention of the Working Group is drawn to Council resolutions 1987/53 and 1988/44 and to General Assembly resolutions 41/107, 42/59 and 43/99 on the review of the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations in crime prevention and criminal justice.

In resolution 1989/68, the Council welcomed the report of the Secretary-General concerning the progress made in the implementation of the conclusions of the review of the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations in crime prevention and criminal justice (E/AC.57/1988/13), reaffirmed its conviction of the importance of the programme of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and the necessity of strengthening it in order to make it more fully responsive to the

needs and expectations of Member States, and noted that, while serious efforts had been made to implement recommendations related to the substantive aspects of the programme, more attention should be paid to the existing structure and level of management of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat in pursuance of Council resolutions 1986/11 and 1987/53 and General Assembly resolution 42/59.

The General Assembly, in resolution 44/72, approved the recommendations contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/68 and requested the Secretary-General to translate them into action. In the same resolution, the General Assembly welcomed the establishment by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control of a subcommittee charged with the task of providing an overview of the problem of crime and assessing the most efficient means of stimulating practical international action in support of Member States, and invited the Committee, at its eleventh session, to give priority attention to the conclusions and recommendations of its subcommittee and to consider appropriate follow-up thereto by the Eighth Congress.

In resolution 11/3, the Committee unanimously approved the report of the subcommittee, as revised, and requested the Secretary-General to transmit it to the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

By decision 1990/216, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the Committee's request, contained in its resolution 11/3, that the Secretary-General transmit to the Eighth Congress, for consideration, the report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control entitled "The need for the creation of an effective international crime and justice programme" (E/1990/31/Add.1).

The Working Group may wish to consider the report of the Committee in the light also of the previous recommendations of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council with a view to identifying existing problems and constraints and suggesting appropriate remedies. The relevant chapters of the reports of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control on its ninth and tenth sessions and the reports of the Secretary-General on the issue will be made available to the Working Group as background information.

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control on its eleventh session (E/1990/31, Supplement No. 10)

Report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control entitled "The need for the creation of an effective international crime and justice programme" (E/1990/31/Add.1)

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat on crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development: realities and perspectives of international cooperation (A/CONF.144/5)

Report of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (A/CONF.144/28)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the conclusions of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (A/45/629)

5. Future of the United Nations crime and justice programme

To ensure appropriate follow-up to the recommendations of the Working Group, the General Assembly, by its resolution 45/108, invited Member States, in consultation with the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, to convene an early ministerial meeting to consider the Working Group's report and to decide on the future of the programme, as well as to consider the possible need for a convention or other international instrument to develop the content, structure and dynamics of that programme, including mechanisms for setting priorities, securing implementation and monitoring the results achieved. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to take all practical measures to ensure rapid implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/59 and 44/72 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1986/11, 1987/53, 1989/68 and 1990/27, in so far as they relate to the strengthening and upgrading of the status of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, taking into account the demands on the Branch that will be created by the preparations for the above-mentioned meetings and by the current and expected programmes, including the conclusions and recommendations of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

The Working Group may wish to review the present arrangements and provide guidance with respect to:

(a) Programme content and priorities;

(b) Modalities of international cooperation and structural arrangements;

(c) Human and financial requirements for effective implementation.

In this connection, the attention of the Working Group is drawn to General Assembly resolutions 45/107 on international cooperation for crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development, 45/121 on the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and 45/166 on human rights in the administration of justice, and Assembly decision 45/428 on crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as to the relevant parts of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Documentation

Report of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (A/CONF.144/28)

Report of the Secretary-General on crime prevention and criminal justice (A/45/629)

Extract from the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 (A/44/6/Rev.1)

Extract from the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6/Rev.1, Prog. 29).

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 (A/46/6, Sect. 21)

6. Conclusions and recommendations

The attention of the Working Group is drawn to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 45/108, by which the Secretary-General is requested to assess the possible implications of the programme proposed by the Working Group for the resources and organizations of the Secretariat and to report thereon to the ministerial meeting and to the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its twelfth session. Consequently, the Working Group may wish to make action-oriented recommendations for consideration by the ministerial meeting, whose report is to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session for appropriate action.

7. Adoption of the report of the Working Group

The Working Group is to adopt a report, the draft of which will be prepared by the Rapporteur.